AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-26. (Cancelled).

27. (Previously Presented) The content playback control method according to claim 38, wherein the special playback comprises at least one of forward, rewind, skip and jump.

28. (Previously Presented) The content playback control method according to claim 38, wherein the restriction of the special playback is described by a possibility or impossibility code.

29. (Previously Presented) The content playback control method according to claim 38, wherein each of the special sections is described on a per segment basis.

30. (Previously Presented) The content playback control method according to claim 38, wherein the information stored in the memory includes license information that manages the content key and the usage condition as a pair.

31-34. (Canceled).

35. (Previously Presented) The content playback control terminal according to claim 39, wherein the special playback comprises at least one of forward, rewind, skip and jump.

36. (Previously Presented) The content playback control terminal according to claim 39, wherein the restriction of the special playback is described by a possibility or impossibility code.

37. (Previously Presented) The content playback control terminal according to claim 39, wherein each of the special sections is described on a per-segment basis.

38. (Currently Amended) A content playback control method comprising:

storing in a memory, information describing:

a content key;

a usage condition;

special sections subject to a restriction of a special playback of content; and

a playback mode permitted in each of the special sections;

the usage condition specifying whether or not a playback is performed with respect to the special sections and the playback mode, and

an electronic signature assigned to at least one of the special sections and the playback mode;

at least one of the special sections and the playback mode is assigned the electronic signature and stored in a non-tamper-proof memory;

the content key and the usage condition are stored in a tamper-proof security module;

decoding encrypted content using the content key to generate decoded content, only when the usage condition is met;

checking a validity of the at least one of the special sections and the playback mode to which the electronic signature is assigned, when an instructed special playback of the decoded content is performed;

determining, when the at least one of the special sections and the playback mode to which the electronic signature is assigned is valid and the usage condition specifies the special sections of the decoded content described in the information stored in the memory, whether the special sections of the decoded content described in the information stored in the memory include a point at which the instructed special playback is performed, and

controlling the instructed special playback for the decoded content, when the special sections include the point at which the instructed special playback is performed, and when the usage condition specifies that the playback is performed based on the playback mode described in the information stored in the memory, and a playback mode of the instructed special playback corresponds to one of the playback mode described in the information stored in the memory.

39. (Currently Amended) A content playback control terminal comprising:

a memory that stores information comprising:

a content key;

a usage condition;

special sections subject to a restriction of a special playback of content; and

a playback mode permitted in each of the special sections;

the usage condition ~~that specifies~~ specifying whether or not a playback is performed ~~based on~~ with respect to the special sections and the ~~at least one~~ playback mode;

an electronic signature assigned to at least one of the special sections and the playback mode[[;]],

at least one of the special sections and the playback mode is assigned the electronic signature and stored in a non-tamper-proof memory;

the content key and the usage condition are stored in a tamper-proof security module;

a content decoder that decodes encrypted content using the content key to generate decoded content;

a license information processor that passes the content key to the content decoder, only when the usage condition is met; and

a playback control information processor that controls the playback of the content in the content decoder based on the special sections and the playback mode permitted in each of the special sections, wherein:

the playback control information processor checks a validity of the at least one of the special sections and the playback mode to which the electronic signature is assigned, when an instructed special playback of the decoded content is performed,

when the at least one of the special sections and the playback mode to which the electronic signature is assigned is valid and the usage condition specifies the special sections of the decoded content described in the information stored in the memory, the playback control information processor determines, whether the special sections of the decoded content described in the information stored in the memory include a point at which the special playback is performed, and

when the special sections includes the point at which the instructed special playback is performed, and when the usage condition specifies that the playback is performed based on the playback mode described in the information stored in the memory, and a playback mode of the instructed special playback corresponds to the playback mode described in the information stored in the memory, the playback control information processor controls the instructed special playback for the decoded content.

40. (Previously Presented) The content playback control method according to claim 38, wherein the usage condition is protection from unauthorized duplication or tampering by using DRM technology.

41. (Previously Presented) The content playback control terminal according to claim 39, wherein the usage condition is protection from unauthorized duplication or tampering by using DRM technology.